



## FORESTRY NEWS



### Western Regional Forester Retires after 44 years of Federal Service

Long-time Western Regional Forester John Philbin officially hung up his logging boots and retired on November 28, 2014 with little fanfare. Most



Iris and John Philbin

of us only learned of the impending date the week it actually occurred. There was a luncheon in Phoenix where John and his wife were honored with a Pendleton blanket and burden basket. John worked for the BIA for 40 years starting his career in Whiteriver in 1974. He is shown in the black and white

photo looking off to his left in this 1978 Crew Boss class photo. See how many others you might recognize. Robert Lacapa (also shown) has the names of all the participants if you need further insight. John wrote the following in a final e-mail: "After 40 years in the BIA and 4 years in the

Navy, I have decided it is time to retire. As I check out this afternoon, I am full of the wonderful memories and experiences that you and the BIA have allowed me. Since I don't have much time my list of recipients for this email is rather short. It should include hundreds of people to whom I owe so much. You

can't believe how much junk, I mean important government stuff, I have accumulated. One brief story: When I was a Timber Sale Forester at Fort Apache I often wished for an office so I would have a place for all my important government stuff. Be careful what you wish for." Good advice!



#### PREScribed BURNING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fire Management personnel have been working on their prescribed fire accomplishments this fall as weather permits. According to Varnell Gatewood, 13,733 acres of pile and broadcast burning were accomplished up to the 1st of December.

#### DRAFT WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Fort Apache Draft Wildland Fire Management Plan is nearing completion and will soon be out for review. This important document will guide Fire Management for years to come. Contact Environmental Quality Specialist Juliette Jeanne if you are interested in commenting or reviewing a copy.

